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Edinburgh
S C H E M E

FOR

The WIDOWS and CHILDREN

OF THE MINISTERS OF THE

Edinburgh
ASSOCIATE SYNOD.
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S C H E M E for raising and supporting a Fund, for the benefit of the Widows and Children of the Ministers belonging to the Associate Synod, agreed upon in their Meeting, at Edinburgh, the 5th day of September 1776*.

I.

THAT no minister, or congregation, may be subjected to pay, for support of this fund, more than they are able and willing to bear, there shall be four classes of annual payments or rates; and, in proportion to these rates, four classes of annuities to widows, or provisions to children.

II.

That such ministers as make choice of the lowest class, shall pay L. 1 *per annum*; such as make choice of the second class, L. 1, 10 s.; such as make choice of the third class, L. 2.; and such as make choice of the highest class, L. 2, 10 s.

III.

That a collection shall be made in the years 1777, 1778, and 1779, for the benefit of the

[*N. B. It is understood, that any alterations or amendments which may be proposed, betwixt and the 6th day of May 1777, if agreed to at the first general meeting, held in consequence of this scheme, shall make part of the regulations of it.]

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fund,

fund, by each congregation, whose minister shall become a contributor, either at the church-door, or in such other manner as they may judge proper, for answering the benevolent and pious purposes of the scheme. And after the said year 1779, it shall be in the option of the respective congregations, either to pay annually a sum equal to the yearly rate of their respective ministers, or to make an annual collection for support of the fund: provided always, that if such collection, in any congregation, shall, in any one year, fall short of the rate payable by their minister, he shall make up the deficiency.

IV.

That every minister, who is now a member of the Associate Synod, shall make his election of one of the four above mentioned yearly rates, to which he chuses to be subject during his life, by a writing signed by him, which he shall cause to be delivered to the treasurer, to be elected in manner after mentioned, at his office in Edinburgh, on or before the term of Lammas next, 1777: and every minister, who shall hereafter be admitted a member of said synod, shall signify his option, by a like writing under his hand, which he shall cause to be delivered to the treasurer, at his office, on or before the first term of Candlemas that shall happen, a full half year after his admission.

V.

That, for the further security and support of the fund, every contributor, who is now a member of the Associate Synod, and every minister, who shall hereafter be admitted a member, and becomes a contributor to this scheme, shall "grant
" a bond, for the regular payment during his
" life,

“ life, of the rate chosen by him, to the treasurer, and his successors in office: which bond shall contain an obligation, that if the annual collection or payment, made by his congregation in any year, falls short of the rate payable by him for that year, he shall make up the deficiency; and further obliging himself to pay and perform whatever else is incumbent on contributors by this scheme. And it is hereby expressly provided and declared, that if any minister shall fail to grant such bond and obligation, within six months after he has declared his election of his yearly rate, it shall not be competent to admit him, at any time thereafter, to the benefit of the scheme.

VI.

That these rates, and collections for congregations, shall be due and payable, by contributors, in manner after mentioned, *viz.* Every contributor, who is now a member of the Associate Synod, if married, or a widower having children, shall pay two years rates; and if a bachelor, or a widower having no children, shall pay one year's rate, at the term of Whitsunday 1777.

VII.

That every minister, hereafter admitted a member of said synod, who shall become a contributor, shall, at the first term of Candlemas, happening a full year after his ordination or admission, pay a sum, more or less than a year's rate; in proportion to the number of days, from the date of his ordination or admission, to the 31st day of December, preceding said term of payment; and, if married at his ordination or admission, or then a widower having children, he shall pay, at the said term, a further sum, equal to one year's rate.

VIII.

That after the first term of payment of the rates that shall fall due by the respective contributors, as above mentioned, each of them shall be liable to pay a full year's rate, at every succeeding term of Candlemas during his life, for the year preceding, computed from the first day of January to the 31st day of December, both inclusive.

It being always understood, and is hereby expressly declared, that whereas those ministers, who are now members of the synod, are to pay two, or one year's rate respectively, at the term of Whitsunday 1777, as aforesaid, they shall only be liable to pay, at Candlemas 1778, a sum equal to three-fourths of one year's annual rate.

IX.

That every minister who shall marry, after making his choice of one or other of the aforesaid annual rates, shall be liable to a sum equal to his rate, in respect of such marriage; and to the like sum for every subsequent marriage: which sums shall be paid, over and above his annual rates, at the first term of Candlemas, which shall be one full year after such respective marriages.

Provided always, that his congregation shall not be liable in payment of any sum, on account of his marriage or marriages.

Provided also, that if he shall marry an annuitant upon the fund, he shall not be subjected to the marriage-tax for such marriage.

X.

That if any contributor shall voluntarily demit his charge, or, by any other means, cease to be minister of a congregation, under the inspection of said synod, he shall, in default of the annual collection

collection formerly made, or of the sums paid on his account, pay yearly, during his life, over and above his annual rate, a sum equal thereto, and that at the respective terms of Candlemas, when his rates shall fall due and become payable. In consideration of which, his widow and children shall be entitled to the same benefits and advantages from this fund, as if he had enjoyed, at the time of his death, a charge, under the inspection of the synod.

XI.

That there shall be due and payable, by the heirs of every contributor, for the year in which he shall die, a sum in proportion to his annual rate, according to the number of days, from the first of January that year, to the day of his death, both inclusive; which proportionable sum shall be payable at the first term of Candlemas, in the year immediately following.

XII.

That the foresaid rates, and marriage-taxes, annual contributions, and other sums, payable for support of the fund, at the respective terms above mentioned, shall be paid to the treasurer at his office, with legal interest, from the term of payment, till actually paid.

XIII.

That all these rates, taxes, contributions, and sums, shall be applied to the following purposes:

1st, For defraying the necessary charges of management, viz. for the treasurer's salary, and the incidental expence of the trustees, to be chosen in manner after mentioned, a sum not exceeding *L. 21. per annum.*

2^{dly}, For raising a capital, to the extent of *L. 6000:*

L. 6000: and, as the very being and existence of the scheme depends upon such a capital, the whole sums, payable as aforesaid, at Whitsunday 1777, at Candlemas 1778, and Candlemas 1779, shall, after payment of the expence of management, be applied, and lent out on proper security, at the sight, and by the direction of the trustees, towards raising said capital, so soon as these sums shall be received. And, for the same purpose, there shall be lent out of the first and readiest of the produce of each succeeding year, after payment of the expence of management, the following sums, *viz.* L. 200 in each year, after the 1779, till the 1786, inclusive; L. 150 in each year, after the 1786, till the 1792, inclusive; L. 100 in each year, after the 1792, till the 1800, inclusive; and L. 30 during every year thereafter, till the said capital is completed *. No part of which, or any sum raised in consequence of this scheme, shall be lent to any of the contributors.

3dly, For payment of annuities to the widows of contributors, corresponding to the respective annual rates of their deceased husbands; *viz.* if their husbands had made choice of the lowest class, their widows shall be entitled to an annuity of L. 8; if of the second class, L. 12; if of the third class, L. 16; and if of the highest class, L. 20: which annuities shall be computed to commence, and become payable for the first time, as follows, *viz.* All those widows, whose husbands shall die, on or before Whitsunday 1779, shall be entitled to a full year's annuity, payable

* The proposed capital of L. 6000, and the sums to be applied annually for raising the same, as above mentioned, proceed on the supposition of there being between 50 and 60 contributors; and that the medium of their annual rates will amount to near L. 2.

at Whitsunday 1780; and the annuities of those widows, whose husbands shall survive Whitsunday 1779, shall be computed to commence from the first term of Whitsunday or Martinmas, that shall be a full half year after the death of their respective husbands, and shall be payable at the Whitsunday following; that is to say, if their annuity commenced at Whitsunday, preceding the term of payment, they shall draw a full year's annuity; but if it did not commence till the Martinmas preceding, they shall only draw a half year's annuity. And after the first term of payment, the respective annuities shall be payable yearly, at each succeeding term of Whitsunday, during the life and widowhood of the annuitants; but shall not be due, for any term that shall happen, after their death or marriage.

4thly, For payment of the provisions due to children, in manner following: every minister, who shall have been subject to one or other of the foresaid annual rates, and who shall die, not leaving a widow, but one or more children, such child or children shall be entitled to a sum of money, corresponding to the annuity to which the widow of said minister would have been entitled; viz. if he shall have left only one child, to a sum equal to six years of her annuity; if two children, to a sum equal to eight years of her annuity; and if three or more children, to a sum equal to ten years of her annuity: which provisions shall be payable at Whitsunday 1780, to the children of those contributors, who shall happen to die before the term of Whitsunday 1779. And the provisions to children, whose fathers shall survive the said term of Whitsunday 1779, shall be payable, in all time coming, at the first

first Whitsunday, happening a full year after the death of their respective fathers.

XIV.

That, if the widow of any contributor shall happen to die, or to be married, before the elapse of ten years, after the commencement of her annuity, and whose husband shall have left a child or children, who, at her death or marriage, shall be under the age of sixteen years, such child or children, shall, at the first Whitsunday, happening a full year after her death or marriage, be entitled to so much of her ten years annuity, as she shall not have received; which sum shall be equally divided among them, if there be more than one child. Provided always, that as children, in this situation, have no equitable title to any share of the fund, no child, even in the case where there shall be but one, under sixteen years of age, shall, in virtue of this clause, be entitled to draw more than a sum equal to three years annuity, whatever sum the reversion of said ten years annuity may amount to.

XV.

That the treasurer, at the sight and direction of the trustees, hereafter appointed, shall retain, from the annuity of the widows, or from the provisions of the children, such sums, as shall be due by their respective husbands or fathers, or by the congregations of which they were ministers, or by their heirs and executors.

XVI.

That the treasurer shall, at the sight, and by the direction of said trustees, stop and deduct yearly one-half of the annuity due to the widow of every minister, who shall not have contributed to the fund, a sum equal to three years of the annuity, corresponding to his annual rate, until either she shall

shall pay, or until such stoppage shall amount to as much, as, together with the sum paid by her husband, and by his congregation, without computing interest, shall be equal to three years of her annuity; and, in the like case, the treasurer shall stop and deduct, out of the provision due to the children of every contributor, so much, as, together with what has been paid by him, and by his congregation, without computing interest, shall be equal to three years of such annuity.

XVII.

That if the annual produce aforesaid, arising from the rates and collections, and other sums, payable for support of the fund, shall in any year exceed the charge of the management, and the sums ordered to be applied for raising the stock or capital, and annuities due to widows, and provisions due to children for that year, and the arrears of annuities, and provisions of former years after mentioned, if any such shall happen, such excess shall be applied and lent out, along with the annual sums, appointed as aforesaid, for raising the capital.

XVIII.

That if in any year the annual surplus aforesaid, after payment of the charges of management, and of the sum to be applied for raising the capital for that year, shall not be sufficient to answer the widows annuities, and childrens provisions for that year, yet no encroachment shall be made upon said capital, nor the raising thereof be stopt; but such deficiencies shall first affect the childrens provisions proportionably, and next the widows annuities proportionably, without regard to the order of time, when any of these became due; and the same shall again be made good to them, out of the surplus of the produce of succeeding years,

years, in this order, viz. after payment of expences of management, and of the sums for raising the stock, as aforesaid, the widows annuities, unpaid in the preceding year, shall be made good in the first place; then the widows annuities of the current year; next, the childrens provisions of the former years, according to the order in which they became due; and, lastly, the childrens provisions for the current year.

XIX.

That when the capital is raised to L. 6000, the surplus of any one year, after the payment of the annual burdens, shall be divided among the widows and children, then entitled to annuities and provisions, in proportion to the rates paid by their deceased husbands or fathers.

XX.

That if the foresaid capital of L. 6000, when made up, in whole or in part, shall happen to be diminished, either by the insolvency of debtors, or by any other accident whatsoever, such diminution shall, from time to time, be made up, by after-surplusses, in the same manner as the original capital was raised.

XXI.

In order to carry this plan into execution, and for the more regular management of the fund, there shall be two general meetings of the contributors annually; the one to be held at
on the day of and the other at
 on the day of

XXII.

That thirteen ministers must be present, before proceeding to any business; and no proxies for absent contributors shall be admitted or allowed.

XXIII.

That, at their first general meeting, the contributors

tors shall appoint nine trustees, whereof three shall be a quorum, for the direction and management of the fund, who shall be vested with the powers after mentioned, for the better execution of their trust, and shall keep a regular minute-book or record of their transactions and proceedings.

XXIV.

That when a trustee shall die, or demit his office, another shall be chosen, in his room, at the next general meeting.

XXV.

That the trustees shall execute their trust, without any fee or reward; but shall be allowed annually a sum, not exceeding L. 5, for their incidental expences. *

XXVI.

That the said first general meeting shall choose a treasurer, for receiving and disbursing the revenues of the fund; who shall keep a public office, at which attendance will be given, on the first Wednesday of every month, or oftener, if the trustees shall find it necessary, from ten in the morning till two after noon.

XXVII.

That the treasurer shall have power, with the concurrence of a quorum of the trustees, to carry on all suits, and to use proper diligence for recovery of the rates, the marriage-taxes, and other sums that may become due by contributors; and to lend out the same, together with the sums which shall be paid in to him by the respective congregations, for raising the foresaid capital of L. 6000:

* If the expence of the trustees shall, in any one year, exceed L. 5, when a book for their minutes, &c. is to purchase, it will be less in the succeeding year; so that it is thought L. 5 will be sufficient, one year with another. But if it shall be found too small a sum, the contributors will agree to such addition as shall be thought necessary.

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but shall not lend out, or uplift, any part of the capital, without a particular appointment from the trustees.

XXVIII.

That the said treasurer shall attend the meetings of the trustees, and shall write their minutes and orders ; and shall have such salary, as shall be judged proper by the trustees, not exceeding L. 16. *

XXIX.

That the said treasurer, before entering upon the exercise of his office, shall give bond to the trustees, with one or more sufficient sureties, to the extent of L. 500, for the faithful discharge of his said trust, and for performance of the other duties hereafter mentioned.

XXX.

That the general meeting shall have power to make new regulations, from time to time, and to alter those formerly made, upon obtaining the explicit consent and approbation of two-thirds of the whole collective body of contributors: provided always, that such new regulations, or such alterations on former regulations, shall not be finally determined by that general meeting, by whom they were first taken under consideration, but shall be referred to the decision of a subsequent general meeting. Provided also, that it shall not be competent, for any general meeting, to make any alteration respecting the annuities

* It is supposed, that L. 16 will be a sufficient salary for the treasurer, even when the capital is made up, and the scheme completed, though obliged to furnish books, &c. at his own expence. A salary of L. 10 will be sufficient, during the earlier period of the scheme: but this the trustees may regulate, from time to time, according as his trouble and attendance shall seem to require.

payable

payable to widows, until they shall obtain, not only the explicit consent and approbation of two-thirds of the whole collective body of contributors, but likewise the explicit consent and approbation of the annuitants, who shall then be upon the fund, and all the proceedings of the general meetings shall be regularly engrossed in a book to be kept by the treasurer.

XXXI.

That the preses of the last general meeting, or, in his absence, the eldest trustee, shall, upon application of any four of the contributors, call a general meeting, by advertisement in the Edinburgh Evening Courant, fifteen days at least before such meeting shall be held.

XXXII.

That the trustees shall have three stated meetings yearly, viz. on the second Tuesday of each of the months March, May, and September, between the hours of and with power to choose a preses, and to adjourn to such times and places, as they shall see cause. That the preses of the last meeting of the trustees, or the eldest trustee, shall call a meeting of the trustees, upon application of any two of their number, by a letter directed to every trustee, put into the post-office, or transmitted, by any other proper channel, ten days before such meeting shall be held.

XXXIII.

That the trustees shall have power, for reasonable causes, to suspend or remove the treasurer; and thereupon, or on his death, or resignation, to name another treasurer in the interim, who shall be entitled to a proportionable share of the salary appointed to the former treasurer, and have full

full powers to act, until the next general meeting of contributors: which general meeting shall have power to review the judgment of the trustees, and to restore the former treasurer, or to continue the treasurer chosen by the trustees, or to elect a new one in his place.

XXXIV.

That every presbytery shall annually make up lists, attested by their respective moderator and clerk, of all the ministers admitted to congregations within their respective bounds, bearing the dates of their ordination or admission, and mentioning, whether or not they were then married, or widowers having children; and also, a list of such ministers as have married, with the dates of their marriages, or who have died, with the names of their widows, and names and ages of their children, who are under twenty-one years of age; and likewise a list of all the widows, whose husbands were contributors residing within their bounds, on the last day of the year, computed as under, or who have died, or have been married within the said year, with the dates of such death or marriage, and names of their husbands children, if then alive, and under sixteen years of age, and all other lists, which may hereafter be appointed to be made up by the trustees. That the list of each year, computed from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, both inclusive, shall be transmitted to the treasurer, at his office, before the second Tuesday of March following; and the moderator or clerk, neglecting so to do, for every such offence, shall forfeit ten shillings Sterling, to be levied and applied in the same manner as the annual rates.

XXXV.

That the trustees, at their meeting in March yearly,

yearly, shall make up lists of the widows and children, entitled to annuities and provisions, at the term of Whitsunday thereafter; mentioning the respective sums due to them: which lists shall lie open, to the inspection of all parties interested, in the treasurer's hands: that they may give in their objections in writing, to be by him laid before the trustees, for examination, at their meeting, on the second Tuesday of May following.

XXXVI.

That the trustees shall, at said stated meeting in May, adjust the said list of annuitants and children, and issue a warrant upon the treasurer accordingly, to each widow or child interested: which warrants shall lie in the hands of the eldest trustee, in the presbytery of Edinburgh, or in the hands of any other person, by them appointed, to be delivered to the parties when called for.

XXXVII.

That the treasurer, when these warrants are presented to him at his office, with a receipt indorsed thereon, shall pay the contents forthwith: and, if he shall exact any fee or reward, in respect of such payment, he shall, *ipso facto*, forfeit his office.

XXXVIII.

That widows and children, unduly omitted out of the said annual list, shall make their claim to the trustees, at their stated meeting in March following, who shall insert them in the list for the current year, and issue, at their meeting, in May thereafter, warrants, for payment of all that shall then be due.

XXXIX.

That if any widow, child, or children, so unduly omitted, shall neglect to make their claim
for

for four full years after such omission, their claim shall not be allowed, at any time thereafter, without an express order, by a general meeting.

XL.

That payment shall be made to the widows, or children named in the warrants, if majors, and to the tutors or curators of such of them as are minors; and if they have no tutors, to such person or persons, as shall be authorised for that purpose, by an act of the presbytery, of which the person, under whom the provision is claimed, was last a member.

XLI.

That the trustees shall annually prepare a state of the funds, under their management, with an account of their proceedings, and lay the same before the general meeting, held in and also transmit copies thereof to each presbytery, for being laid before the several sessions, betwixt the day of and the day of

XLII.

That the treasurer shall exhibit annually to the trustees, at their meeting in September, an account of the sums paid by him out of his receipts of the preceding year; and the trustees shall then audite, and pass his accompts, and discharge him and his sureties, of the sums accounted for; and shall then order the free balance, in his hand, to be lent out, in manner, and for the purposes above mentioned.

XLIII.

That the treasurer's books shall lie open on his office days, for the inspection of all concerned in this fund.

N. B That all benefactions shall be applied in the same manner as the annual rates.

